



73rd Year

December 28, 2025

Pamphlet #52 (3787)

THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (Galatians 1:11-19)

The preaching of the Gospel

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

On this last Sunday of the year, the Apostle Paul speaks about the Gospel of Christ, which is not a human creation or invention, but the fruit of the Lord's revelation to humanity. Earlier, he had expressed his distress to the Galatians, having

learned that some of them had easily shifted from the Gospel of truth of Jesus Christ to other teachings, other “gospels,” taught by false Christians and false prophets, whose aim was to trouble the flock of the Church and distort the evangelical truth. This Apostolic reference to the Gospel, to the Word of God, which is transmitted and will be taught unceasingly in the life of the Church until the end of history, gives us the occasion and opportunity to redefine within ourselves the meaning of the Gospel and to once again appreciate the value of the divine word.

The search for divine truth

Our world today is saturated with words – political, journalistic, scientific, human, and worldly. Most of the time, this kind of speech causes discomfort and emits a sense of repulsion. It either agitates the mind or lulls it to sleep. It stirs instincts, provokes, flatters, excites temporarily, or disappoints. Yet it always serves a purpose: to manipulate the listener, to control their thinking, and to subject them to the logic of the speaker, who is usually self-interested and opportunistic. For this reason, worldly speech, although abundant, leaves a person unsatisfied. At the same time, however, this person refuses to listen to and attune themselves to another Word – one that is consistent, steady, just, peaceful, yet also corrective, loving, forbearing, beneficial, and salvific. And this Word is Christ, offered to every thirsty soul that has grown weary of human wordplay and seeks divine truth.

The necessity of the divine word

The modern person is in need of this Word of God as it is taught within the Church. According to the wondrous pen of a departed Metropolitan: “The Word of God is as necessary for the spiritual life of a person as bread is for the preservation of the body.” Saint John Chrysostom teaches: “Bread nourishes the body, but the divine word sustains the soul.” The Bread that comes down from heaven is as necessary as our daily bread; indeed, in certain cases, the divine word is more necessary than

material food. It is telling that the Lord did not bless those who are full, but rather rebuked them: woe to you who are filled, He said. Yet He blessed the hungry and declared, blessed are those who hunger, and also those who hear the word of God: blessed are those who hear the word of God, joy to those who have the opportunity to listen, and who want to listen. For it always remains an unanswered question: how many hunger and thirst to hear the word of God? It is not without significance that Christ, at the end of one of His teachings, said: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

The Gospel of Christ is the greatest treasure of our lives: the answer to our questions, the way out of our impasses, the solution to our problems. But have we truly understood this truth, or do we treat the Gospel as just another common book like all the other ones decorating our bookshelf? Have we realized that by touching it, we touch Christ Himself, who continually reveals Himself through its pages? Have we made the Gospel a daily necessity of our lives, or have we limited ourselves to a superficial engagement with it, confined to our liturgical life? Have we taught our children its importance? Have we, first of all, learned to make its holy content a way of life?

A new year dawns before us. It is as though a new life is being born into the world. Let us see this moment as an opportunity for our personal rebirth in Christ, where the milk, the bread, and the water of our spiritual life become His Gospel. Let it be!

Archimandrite E. Oik.

From the publications of the Apostolic Ministry:

THE NEW TESTAMENT

The original text according to the edition of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, with a Modern Greek rendering by Emeritus Professor Christos Voulgaris.

December 28, 2025: Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Joseph the betrothed, David the Prophet King,
and James the brother of God.

The 20,000 burned Martyrs of Nicomedia (+302).
Glykeria the Martyr, Simon the Venerable of Athos the Myrrhusher.

4th Tone – Eothinon: 7 – Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19
– Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

NEXT SUNDAY: January 4, Sunday before Theophany
Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 – Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Apostolic Ministry wishes all the beloved readers of the leaflet
Voice of the Lord a good and holy Twelve-Day Feast and a new year
2026 blessed by our Savior Christ.

2026 Wall Calendar and Yearbook

The **Wall Calendar** includes the daily feast calendar and timely theological messages for each day's feast or topics concerning Christian life. The frame is adorned with a four-color, ornate portable icon of the Most Holy Theotokos.

The **Yearbook** – a pocket calendar – contains a concise and alphabetical calendar of feasts, a weekly planner, notebook, and useful information. It is dedicated to the 90 years of service of the Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece in Catechesis, Mission, Youth, and Culture (1936–2026). The cover is decorated with an icon of Jesus Christ teaching in the Temple of Jerusalem.

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